

Message Text

SECRET

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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R 210028Z JUN 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 146393

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG EMERGENCY MEASURE

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT HERE OF MOST RECENT ROKG EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9 AND TRIALS OF PROMINENT GOVERNMENT CRITICS. SPECIFICALLY, CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9 COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 502B OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 RELATING TO NEED FOR PRESIDENTIAL EXCEPTION IN CASES WHERE THERE IS CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF - INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS. CONTINUATION OF THAT EMERGENCY MEASURE MAKES IT MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO HANDLE THAT PROBLEM.

2. IN VIEW ABOVE, WE BELIEVE WE MUST RAISE DIRECTLY WITH
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PARK OUR CONCERNS. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK PRIVATE

MEETING WITH PARK, INFORMING HIM YOU ARE UNDER PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM SECRETARY TO DO SO. IN DOING SO YOU MIGHT NOTE THAT PARK, DURING SECRETARY'S 1974 SEOUL VISIT, HAD TOLD SECRETARY TO INFORM HIM IF HIS INTERNAL ACTIONS DID CAUSE US PROBLEMS.

3. IN MEETING WITH PARK YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) WE HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED PUBLIC CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT PARK'S INTERNAL MEASURES DESPITE INTENSE PRESSURES TO DO SO.

(B) RECOGNIZING VALID ROKG SECURITY CONCERNS, WE HAVE MOVED DELIBERATELY TO EMPHASIZE PUBLICLY OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN OTHER STEPS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATION TO IMPORTANT CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES, TO ASSURE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEVELS IN FY 75 AS WELL AS TO ASSURE ROKG THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN OUR FORCE PRESENCE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE ALSO INTEND TO ASK CONGRESS FOR SUBSTANTIAL MAP AND PL 480 LEVELS IN FY 76.

(C) AT SAME TIME IF ROKG PERSISTS IN ANY LONG-TERM EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9, IT WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT SUPPORT OF IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY FOR OUR KOREAN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS THAT ROKG CONSIDER MOVING OUT OF EMERGENCY MEASURE SITUATION. FURTHER, DRASTIC ACTIONS AGAINST PROMINENT DOMESTIC OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS. (FOR EXAMPLE, A DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST POET KIM CHI HA OR PRISON TERMS FOR CHURCH LEADERS WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE ROKG IMAGE IN THE US.)

4. IN CONVEYING ABOVE TO PRESIDENT PARK YOU SHOULD STRESS OUR RELUCTANCE TO RAISE THESE MATTERS WITH HIM. WE RECOGNIZE PARK WILL INSIST ON NECESSITY OF HIS MEASURES GIVEN NORTH KOREAN THREAT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY THAT HE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS HIS DOMESTIC SECRET

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ACTIONS CAUSE HERE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR MAJOR EFFORTS IN ASSURING ROK SECURITY. KISSINGER

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